

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. **Reject Racism.**

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • May 15, 2025

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Sunday, May 18, 2025

Worship Service @ 10:15 am

Nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children.

Last day of Sunday School - Summer Break

Children ages 5 and older are invited to attend Sunday School immediately following the offertory.

Participating from home? Join us via live stream...

Click Here: <http://youtube.com/channel/UCBYMT5pV5dLXGHjX5iaYXYQ/live>

Contact Information

Rev. Briones can be reached at revcbriones@gmail.com or 952-935-3025.

Christián's emergency line is **612-495-8203**.

In the event of an emergency on a Friday, please call the church (952-935-3025) and leave a voicemail and the message will be passed along to Christián.

He will be in touch as soon as possible.



In Prayer

- Please keep Michelle Liebl in your prayers as she grieves the loss of her father.
- Prayers for Sandy Davis-Lerner as she mourns the death of her husband, Harry Lerner.
- Louise and Jim Ford ask prayers for Chris & Julie Ford, who are both battling different cancers (Chris with Kidney cancer and Julie with breast cancer).
- Emily Gray appreciates prayers for a joyful journey through her chemo treatment.
- Joann's nephew, Russell Hunt Jr, is receiving infusions for leukemia.
- Doug Allen, John Burgart, Dee Chance, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Tom Ford, Joann Hunt, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Ann Puglisi, Annette Ronan, Nolan Sapp, Allii Scudder, Patty Sexton, Gail Stalpes, Amanda Trosen, and Traci White-Hobson

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 1st

Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us following the worship service.

Outdoor Worship Service & Midsommar Smorgasbord – Sunday, June 15th

Join us for our outdoor worship service and stay for our Scandinavian-inspired smorgasbord. We will celebrate the joyful abundance and long days of summer with a Scandinavian-inspired smorgasbord.

There are two sign-up sheets in the narthex--one to let us know how many people will be attending and the second for volunteers to bring food to help fill our table with a little of this and a little of that!

Kit Kat Bars

1 cup butter
1 ½ cups white sugar
½ cup milk
½ cup brown sugar

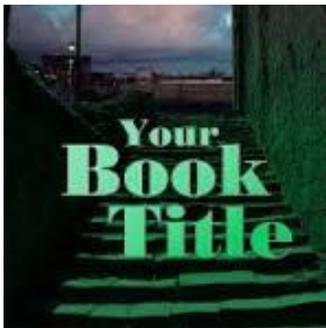
Most Requested Recipe
(after worship treats)

Melt the above ingredients. Stir in 2 cups finely crushed graham crackers. Bring to a full boil and continue to cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Cover a 9x13 pan with aluminum foil (easier to remove the bars from the pan). Layer the pan with Keebler Club crackers (whole). Pour ½ of boiled mixture over the crackers. Put another layer of crackers on top and then pour the rest of the boiled mixture over. Place another layer of crackers over this.

Then Melt...

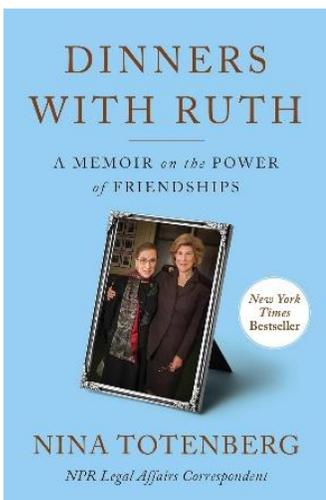
½ cup chocolate chips
½ cup butterscotch chips
2/3 cup chunky peanut butter

Spread over the top and refrigerate.



Next Book Group is Thursday, June 12th at 1:00 p.m.

BYOB (bring your own book) – read or reread a book of your choice and share a favorite character or quote. Also, bring a favorite cookbook or recipe.



For July 10th, we will be reading Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships by Nina Totenberg. Celebrated NPR correspondent delivers an extraordinary memoir of her personal successes, struggles, and life-affirming relationships, including her beautiful friendship of nearly fifty years with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. *Dinners with Ruth* is a remarkable account of two women who paved the way for future generations by tearing down professional and legal barriers, an intimate memoir of the power of friendships as women began to pry open career doors and transform the workplace.

Raingarden

We are looking for folks to help maintain the raingarden. Tasks include watering the new seedlings, strategic trimming of certain dead material, careful removal of debris (like old cottonwood leaves), keeping the “step” clear of sediment, sweeping the gutter, cleaning the outlet before it goes into the storm sewer, and weeding. None of these tasks need to be a big job - just an hour or so at a time – but regular maintenance will help the garden to flourish.

Talk to Laura Feierabend if you’d like to learn more or adopt a task.

The Sandwich Project - Sunday, June 8th

Join us for a hands-on outreach event @ Chapel Hills on Sunday, June 8th following worship. We will be assembling 300 sandwiches to benefit the **Walker Food Share**.

Located in South Minneapolis, the Walker Food Share serves close to 200 people each Monday. The sandwiches that are made are given to those in need.



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Plans are underway for this summer’s collaborative Vacation Bible School with Morningside Hills UCC. The four-day session from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. will be held at Chapel Hills the week of August 18th.

We will be looking for volunteers to help that week.

Strengthen the Church Offering – Sunday, June 8th

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Give in the following ways:

- Drop in the collection plate during worship
- Mail to Chapel Hills UCC and write STC on the memo line (6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina, MN 55436)
- Donate online at <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina>

It's time to order your Chapel Hills T-Shirt



Hanes Essential-T Crewneck (Lime) - **\$22.00 each**
Check payable to Chapel Hills (write T-Shirt on the memo line)

Sign-Up Sheet is in the Narthex



Receiving Non-Perishable
Food Items

May Birthdays

Amanda Trosen - 1st

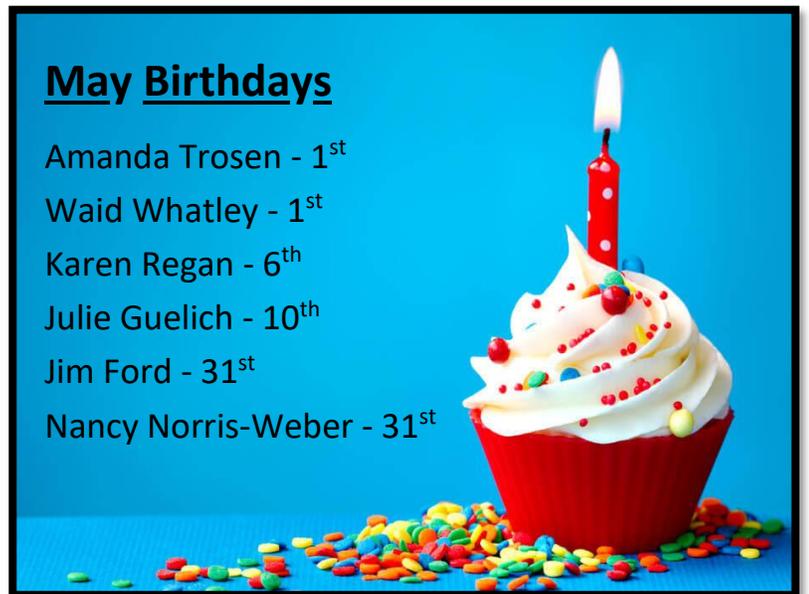
Waid Whatley - 1st

Karen Regan - 6th

Julie Guelich - 10th

Jim Ford - 31st

Nancy Norris-Weber - 31st



Looking Ahead

18	MAY, SUN	● All day ● 10:15 – 11:15am	Last Day of Sunday School (Summer Break) Worship Service
25	MAY, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
1	JUN, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am ● 11:15 – 11:45am	Worship Service & Communion Congregational Meeting
3	JUN, TUE	● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
8	JUN, SUN	● All day ● 10:15 – 11:15am ● 11:15am – 12pm	Receive Strengthen the Church Offering Worship Service Hands-On Sandwich Making
12	JUN, THU	● 9 – 10am ● 1 – 2:30pm	Nature Walk Book Group
15	JUN, SUN	● 10:15am – 12:15pm	Outdoor Worship Service & Midsommar Smorgasbord
18	JUN, WED	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Ice Cream Party
22	JUN, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
25	JUN, WED	● 6:30 – 7:15pm	Yoga - Outdoors

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here".*



GIVE Securely Online

Offering/Donations

- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking the following link...
- <https://app.easytith.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina> or by scanning the QR Code on the left
- **By Check** (indicate what your donation is for on the memo line) Send to: Chapel Hills, 6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina, MN 55436



“Imagine”

Fifth Sunday after Easter

There’s a magical place in New Jersey where children have been letting their imaginations run wild since 1954. It’s called the Land of Make Believe and, just as its name says, it invites children to literally step into the nursery rhymes read to them at bedtime. There are the homes of the three little pigs to run through and the old lady’s shoe — the one with so many children she didn’t know what to do — to slide down from.

For years it was thought that as we grew older, we no longer visited these lands of make believe. It was thought our ability to imagine faded with each passing year. Researchers from Kent University in England proved otherwise as a recent study among 470 people between 4 and 81, showed that adult imagination was not only as vivid as a child’s but became more vivid with age.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could right now play in our own lands of make believe? Wouldn’t it be even better to enter God’s land of belief that John is inviting us to do this day?

The beloved friend of Jesus writes to us from his seclusion on the Greek island of Patmos. It is there in a dank cave where he penned the visions, he received that would later become The Book of Revelation. And one such revelation calls for us to revisit the promise that God will indeed make all things news — a promise echoed all throughout scripture.

Today, we are being called to imagine a new heaven and a new earth for the former ones have passed away. This new heaven and earth don’t necessarily mean that the current ones have been destroyed and something different has emerged. Rather the ancient Greek word for “new” — *kaine* — means “new in character” or “fresh.” John is talking not about the *next* heaven and earth, but rather a *better* heaven and earth.

Let’s now imagine together what this “better” might look like, especially for our earth today? Close your eyes. What do you see? How would you characterize this better earth? And more importantly, how is God asking you to be a pivotal player in making this better earth a reality rather than make believe?

Imagination is a wonderful thing for all ages — and it can be a powerful spiritual practice to engage in daily. For who wouldn’t want to step into a place where God is making all things new, where death and crying and pain are no more? Let our imagining become the prayer portal for making this possible.

God of new beginnings, help us to look beyond the realities of this world and toward a better heaven and a better earth, where all Your children are fed, loved and safe. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.